TRICARE

TRICARE for Life

TRICARE Improvements in the FY 2001 National Defense Authorization Act

TRICARE Management Activity

Communications & Customer Service

Last Updated
11 Dec 01

FY 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

- President Clinton signed the NDAA on October 30, 2000 (Public Law 106-398)
- Included several health care provisions that collectively represent the most significant change to military health care benefits since the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) was established by Congress in 1966

Key Elements of NDAA '01

Active Duty and Family Members

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- Eliminated Family Member Copayments for Civilian Health Care Services if Enrolled in Prime
  - Effective date: April 1, 2001
  - Prescription Copayments are Not Waived
- Expanded TRICARE Prime Remote to Families
  - Enrollment Offered by October 1, 2001
  - Interim: Waives Copayments and Deductibles for Active Duty Families residing with TRICARE Prime Remote Active Duty Service Members
- Introduced Chiropractic Benefit for Active Duty
  - Five-year phase-in begins October 1, 2001

Key Elements of NDAA '01

Medicare-Eligible Military Retirees, their Family Members and Survivors

- Worldwide Pharmacy Benefit
  - Effective April 1, 2001
  - Included Military Treatment Facility, National Mail Order Pharmacy and Retail Pharmacy Benefit
  - All beneficiaries who turn 65 prior to April 1, 2001 automatically qualify for this benefit whether or not they have purchased Medicare Part B
  - All beneficiaries who attain the age of 65 on or after April 1, 2001 must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to receive the benefit

Key Elements of NDAA '01

Medicare-Eligible Military Retirees, their Family Members and Survivors

- TRICARE as 2nd Payer to Medicare
  - Effective October 1, 2001
  - Enrollment in Medicare Part B is Mandatory to Receive this Benefit
  - Medicare Eligibles Residing Overseas are Entitled to TRICARE Coverage
- TRICARE Senior Prime Demonstration is Extended to December 31, 2001
  - Long-Term Continuation of Demo is Under Review
  - Congressional Action would be Needed for Further Continuation

Key Points for Medicare Beneficiaries:

- Enroll in Medicare Part B -

Enrollment in Medicare Part B is Mandatory to Receive Health Benefits through TRICARE

- Medicare allows enrollment each year from January 1 through March 31. Coverage under Part B will be effective July 1 of the same year.
- Beneficiaries who have not enrolled in Part B in the past may face a surcharge, which could increase the monthly Part B premium.
- Want to Learn More About Medicare Benefits and Part B Insurance?

  Call 1-800-633-4227 (1-800-MEDICARE)

  Go to the web site: www.medicare.gov

Key Points for Medicare Beneficiaries:

- Medigap/Supplemental Insurance -

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Think Carefully About Medigap / Supplemental Insurance Decisions

- Premature to Drop Now
- Implementation Timelines are Target Dates
  - Federal Regulations Require Public Coordination
- Must Consider Personal Circumstances
  - Medicare v. TRICARE Coverage Match?
  - Non-Network Areas: Availability of Participating Medicare Providers
- Military Health System Leaders are Working with Medicare Leaders on Guidance and Laws Affecting Medigap Policies

Key Points for Medicare Beneficiaries

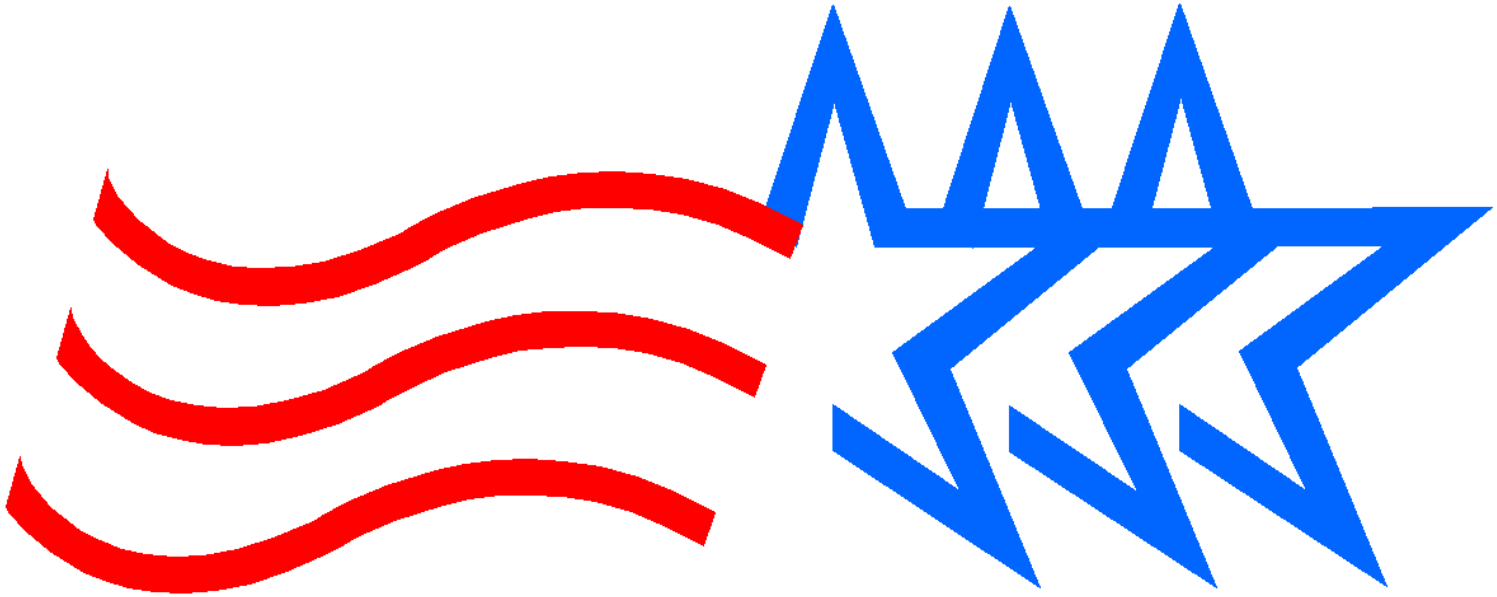
- Update Information in DEERS -

Ensure that Most Accurate Data is in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)

- To Update Addresses:
  - Visit: Local personnel offices that have ID card facility
  - Call: Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) Telephone Center at 1-800-538-9552
    - Best time to call the Telephone Center is Wednesday - Friday, between 9 - 3 (Pacific Time) to avoid delays
  - Fax: 1-831-655-8317
  - Mail: DSO, Attn: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771
- To Update Other Information:
  - Visit an ID card facility, mail or fax changes with appropriate documentation to the address/numbers provided above

Conclusions

- Major Change in the Military Health Care Benefit
- DoD has Implementation and Contracting Responsibilities
  - Quality Health Care Delivery
  - Public Review and Comment on New Changes
  - Good Steward of Taxpayer Dollars
- Best Info Source Including Latest Version of this Briefing: http://tricare.osd.mil/tfl/



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